

In the specification:

The paragraph starting at page 94, line 9, is amended as follows:

a1 To generate the validation portion, an internally known 128-bit secret key KEY1 is first selected. A second string S2 includes the combination of KEY1 and the integer number. Using this KEY1, a well-known hash algorithm, such as MD5, is applied to string S2 to generate string S3. As known to those of ordinary skill in the art, MD5 is a one-way hash function to generate an output string. A one-way hash takes an input string  $S1-S2$  and transforms it into an output string  $S2S3$ . It is designated so that "decryption" is not possible. In other words, it is not possible to take  $S2S3$ , and generate  $S1-S2$  from it. In the current scheme, the key ~~K1~~ KEY1 is appended (or prepended) to the number portion input string --  $S1 + K1 = S1'$ .  $S1' - S1_{INT} + KEY1 = S2$ . S2 is then run through the ~~one~~ one-way hash to generate  $S2S3$ .